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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Juan Vargas
51st District, California

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTOR PROTECTION,
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CAPITAL MARKETS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING,
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WESTERN HEMISPHERE, CIVILIAN SECURITY,
AND TRADE
MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA,
AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

April 28, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the "Beach and Boat Launch at Harbor Park" project in fiscal year 2023, in the amount of \$4,000,000. The entity to receive the funding is the San Diego Unified Port District, located at 3165 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101.

The Port of San Diego's Board of Port Commissioners have approved a Coastal Development Permit for Harbor Park that allows the completion of the design, the bidding and awarding of construction contracts, and the start of construction. Harbor Park will be an expansion of the existing 12-acre Bayside Park and is designed to allow access to the State's public tidelands as required under the public trust doctrine. Project features include: 1) An enlarged and improved beach that will allow visitors especially those from surrounding disadvantaged communities to have easy access to the bay; 2) a pocket marsh and salt marsh planting; 3) a pedestrian boat launch for kayaks, paddleboards, and other personal watercraft; 4) meadows studded with picnic tables; 5) terraced headlands surrounding the beach that offer seating and sunset views; and 6) park lighting, furnishings, and signage.

This is good use of taxpayer resources because Harbor Park will nearly double the size of the existing Bayside Park and will be developed in phases. The first phase -- and the focus of this funding request -- will focus on northwest shoreline improvements including an enlarged and improved beach; waterside terraced headlands surrounding the beach; a pocket marsh with salt marsh plantings; a portion of the waterfront promenade; a boat launch at the north end for personal watercraft such as kayaks and paddleboards; north and south meadows with paths and picnic tables; formal, multi-use lawns and large public gathering areas at the north and south ends; north promontory providing dramatic views across the bay to the west to downtown San Diego and the Coronado Bridge to the north; pedestrian and bicycle improvements; and more. Harbor Park, along with the future Sweetwater Park, will account for more than half of the new park space planned for the Chula Vista Bayfront.

This project has received written support from Port of San Diego, Chula Vista Mayor Mary Salas, and the San Diego Audubon Society.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Juan Vargas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress